

Goshen, NY – Rep. John Hall (NY-19) visited two small businesses today - Goshen Hardware and Franzoso Contracting - to discuss the benefits of the House passed Home Star Energy Retrofit bill he cosponsored. This bill will create new jobs while it creates incentives for homeowners to save energy and money on their utility bills.

The program consists of two tracks of rebates. The Silver Star program would provide up-front rebates for installing specific energy-saving appliances and devices. These include new water-heaters, duct sealing, insulation, and modern doors and windows. Homeowners would be eligible to receive up to \$3000 in rebates under the Silver Star program.

The Gold Star program would reward families who conduct a comprehensive home energy audit to find out just how much energy they're using, and then implement measures to make their homes more efficient. Homeowners would then earn \$3000, or half the cost, for renovations that reduce energy use by 20%. Homeowners could receive up to \$8000 for additional energy reductions.

Rep. Hall said, "Not only will this program save money for consumers, it will create thousands of good jobs for the construction and the heating and cooling industries. It will increase business for retailers who will be able to hire more workers. These are jobs that won't be sent overseas. Manufacturing will also get a lift, because more than 90 percent of the materials and products used to retrofit homes are manufactured right here in America. In the long run we'll create thousands of new jobs, homeowners will save money year after year, and we as a nation will reduce our dependence on foreign oil."

Standing in front of his family owned Goshen Hardware store, Tom Foley told Hall, "Most of our customers understand that modern equipment will help them save money year after year. Sometimes they just need a little nudge to go ahead and make the initial investment. This could be just the incentive they need."

Mark Franzoso, of Franzoso Contracting, a leading green builder and home improvement company in Croton-on-Hudson, said as he led Hall through the showroom, "Both the industry and our customers will reap untold benefits from this program. The energy savings, the jobs that will be created and beneficial effects on our energy resource consumption to be realized from this program are innumerable. Taking part in the Home Star program will be a great way for us to celebrate our 30th year of business."

Rep. Hall said, "One of the greatest benefits of Home Star is that it will create new jobs for people who have been hit hardest by the housing market crash: builders and contractors, hardware store owners, and makers of construction materials. This is good legislation, and is an example of what we in Congress can do to create jobs and help consumers when we work together to get things done."